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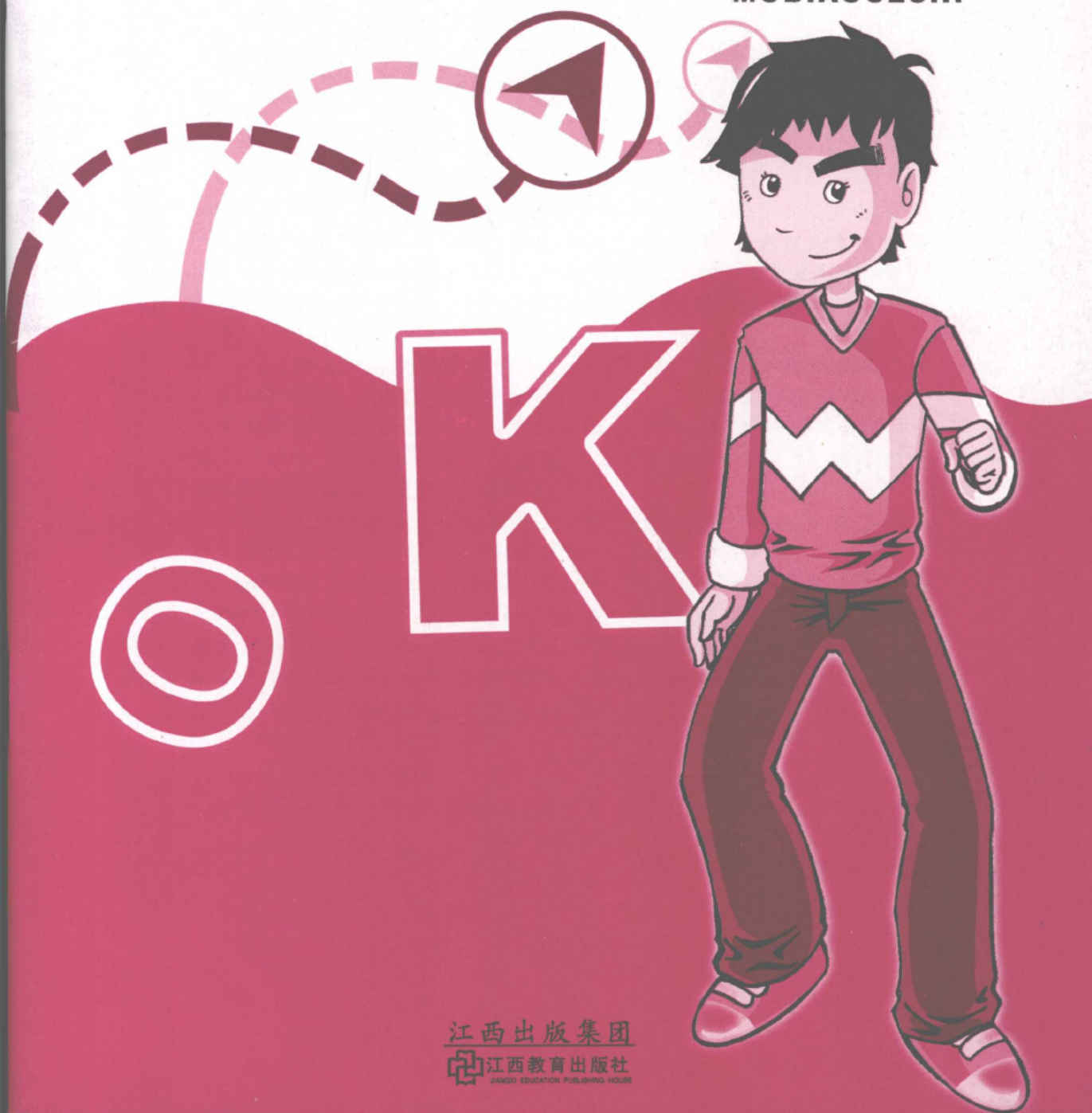


江西省教育厅教学教材研究室 编

二年级·下学期

高中英语 目标测试

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MUBIAOCESHI



江西出版集团

江西教育出版社
JIANGXI EDUCATION PUBLISHING HOUSE



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小学教学研究

全国中文核心期刊 邮发代号: 44-9

全国英语期刊领跑者

疯狂英语 系列期刊
CRAZY ENGLISH

邮发代号: 44-90 44-91 44-92 44-93



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WWW.OOLOO.COM.CN

书 名 高中英语目标测试 二年级·下学期
作 者 江西省教育厅教学教材研究室
(南昌市洪都北大道96号 邮 编:330046)
出 版 者 江西出版集团·江西教育出版社
社 址 南昌市抚河北路291号 邮 编:330008
经 销 江西省新华书店
印 刷 江西萍乡市印刷厂
厂 址 萍乡市桥头1号 电 话 0799-6794608
开 本 787毫米×1092毫米 1/16
印 张 5.75 印张
版 次 2007年7月第1版
印 次 2007年7月第1次印刷
定 价 8.50元

ISBN 978-7-5392-2725-2

赣教版图书如有印装质量问题,可向我社产品制作部调换
电话:0791-6710427(江西教育出版社产品制作部)

封面设计:橙入动漫

ISBN 978-7-5392-2725-2



9 787539 227252 >

说 明

为了适应高中课程改革发展的需要,推动教科书和教辅进一步完善,我们组织在全省教学一线有影响的优秀教师,重新编写了高中各科“目标测试”丛书。这套丛书与我省现行高中教科书相匹配,旨在弘扬课改精神,帮助同学们进行高效率的学习。

本丛书以《全日制普通高级中学课程计划》为指导,充分体现高中教材的编写思想,充分体现高中学科人文性与科学性和谐统一的特点;从“知识和技能”、“过程和方法”、“感情、态度和价值观”等三个方面构建学生学科素养的合理结构。

本书是在对教材进行认真研究的基础上,开发学习资源,设计以发展能力和培养创新意识为目的的训练项目,为同学们的自主学习、合作学习、探究学习提供切实而有效的帮助。各类训练题目,面向全体同学,难易适度,分量适中,坚持基础训练为主,以能力题为主,适当增加开放性、探究性训练题,以培养同学们的创新精神和实践能力。我们相信,这套丛书对于更好地贯彻新课程理念,学好教材,培养良好的学习习惯和学习品质,提高思维能力,是非常有益的。

学习的基本规律是积累、感受、体验、实践、创新,在老师的熏陶感染下,逐步提高学科素养。最有效的学习是个性化的学习。希望同学们在使用本书过程中,把它当成“助手”,而不是完全的依赖;把它当成探究、创新的借鉴和桥梁,而不是唯一的“标准答案”。惟其如此,本书的作用才能得到充分的发挥,同学们才会得到更多更好的帮助和启发。

“目标测试”这套丛书,自上世纪 90 年代面世后,便以权威、系统、实用等特点倍受大家青睐,迅速成长为有影响的教辅品牌。多年来,我们倾注了无数的心血和热情,始终致力于为孜孜以求的学子提供最系统、最科学的学习、升学方案。如今,我们仍在探索、创新,力求使丛书的使用功能更加完善,希望教辅用书质量更上一层楼,更加贴近教材、贴近实际、贴近学生发展的需要。在编写中,我们一贯突出知识、能力、素质三要素,旨在建构全新的实践、探究、创新三位一体的学习理念。欢迎广大师生提出宝贵意见,以便我们今后修改完善。

本书作者:彭娟、陈静

本书统稿:周传联

江西省教育厅教学教材研究室

2007 年 12 月

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Unit 11

Scientific achievements

Studying aims

1. 本单元以对中国及世界上一些重大科学成果的讨论为话题,通过听、说、读、写练习,学会用英语表达自己的未来愿望、打算,并陈述自己的理由。
2. 掌握以下表达方式:

If I got..., I would...

I want/wish/hope/intend/plan to...

I hope that...

My plan is...

I'm thinking of...

Listening Part

I. Listen to five dialogues and choose the right answers.

1. When did the man's daughter set the world record?
A. In 1989. B. In 1995. C. In 1999.
2. What will the woman have to do?
A. Borrow a tape next week.
B. Keep the tape for another week.
C. Return the tape to the man right now.
3. Where are the speakers?
A. In a shop. B. In a restaurant. C. In a post office.
4. What will the son tell his mother?
A. The things to buy. B. The place to go to. C. The film to see.
5. Why can't the man answer the woman's questions?
A. It's not his office hour. B. He is too tired after class.
C. He doesn't have time now.

II. Listen to the dialogue and choose the right answers.

1. Where does the conversation most probably take place?
A. On a train. B. In a bus. C. At a restaurant.
2. Where will they most probably go?
A. To the man's home. B. To the woman's home. C. To the cinema.
3. Why can't they see the conductor?
A. Because there are too many people.
B. Because they don't know who the conductor is.



C. Because there is no conductor.

III. Listen to the passage and choose the right answers.

1. What's the speaker mainly talking about?

A. Wednesday's programs on VOA.

B. Special English tonight on VOA.

C. The hosts of the programs on VOA.

2. When can you hear *The Plans for a New Factory in Space*?

A. At night.

B. In the afternoon.

C. In the morning.

Written Part

I. Multiple choice.

1. This experiment turned out to be _____ failure, but, as we know, success often comes after _____ failure.

A. a, a

B. /, /

C. a, /

D. /, a

2. Since then many Chinese movies have won various awards. Meanwhile, movies made in Taiwan and Hong Kong have _____ international fame.

A. accepted

B. created

C. achieved

D. developed

3. When I first set _____ in Australia, I didn't know what the future might have in _____ for me.

A. my foot, the store

B. a foot, the store

C. foot, store

D. feet, stores

4. If you become sick, it is nearly impossible to go on with your education, let alone make your dreams _____ true.

A. come

B. turn

C. become

D. get

5. I don't think Jack is a man to be _____, when we are in trouble and need his help.

A. hoped for

B. related to

C. expected from

D. relied on

6. Just as the doctor _____, your wife is not exactly fat, but rather well-built for her age.

A. gets it

B. makes it

C. puts it

D. means it

7. They say the recorder costs 150 dollars. But I don't think it's worth _____ much.

A. that

B. as

C. even

D. rather

8. He got full marks in this math exam, _____ that he was among the class' best.

A. to prove

B. proved

C. having proved

D. proving

9. Due to Tom's joke the discussion _____ and went on in a friendly atmosphere.

A. saw an end

B. came to end

C. came to life

D. cheered up

10. —How is it _____ you persuaded your father to give up smoking?

—By promising that I will no longer eat any sweet.

A. that

B. which

C. when

D. who

11. The mother didn't know _____ to blame for the broken glass, as it happened while she was out.



- A. who B. when C. how D. what
12. We'll be shown around the city: schools, museums, and some other places, _____ other visitors seldom go.
- A. what B. which C. where D. when
13. Just after putting the baby onto bed, Mrs White suddenly caught sight of the pet cat and didn't know how long it _____ on the table _____ for the family dinner.
- A. had been laying, lying B. had been lying, laid
C. had been laid, laid D. had lain, laying
14. The Supreme State Science and Technology Award is crowned as "China's Nobel Prize" by _____ in the Chinese scientific circle.
- A. those B. who C. whom D. that
15. —It seems _____ that she'll win the match.
—Yes. She is the most _____ of the people to break the world recorder.
- A. likely, probably B. probably, likely
C. probable, probable D. likely, likely

II. Write out the words according to the first letters given.

1. As we are often told, f _____ is the mother of success.
2. At the meeting the chairman will a _____ who is the winner.
3. It's a p _____ letter and I wouldn't like it to be typed.
4. I recommend that you choose a travel a _____ to make a plan for your tour.
5. No one is born p _____. You just need to be practical and self-confident.

III. Correct the following mistakes.

1. There are some good scientists have changed our life.
2. The hero has much for us to study from indeed.
3. Both my parents and teachers hope me to go to Beijing University.
4. Many people were fighting against the flood, include the old.
5. They make clear that science and business can and must work together to build the future.
6. You will finally find it a way lead you to success.
7. The date of the sports meeting was put forward next Monday at the meeting.
8. Since 1978, greatly changes have taken place in China.
9. Nowadays penicillin is used too much to cure for illnesses like a fever.
10. Knowing the result, he is possible to change his mind.

IV. Fill in the blanks, making sentence A have the same meaning as sentence B.

1. A. Many of great achievements are likely to be born in northeastern Beijing.
B. _____ that many of great achievements will be born in north eastern Beijing.
2. A. They started the centre in the early 1980s.

B. The centre _____ in the early 1980s.

3. A. The spirit of Zhongguancun has become successful because of the spirit of creativity and scientific skill.

B. The spirit of creativity and scientific skill has _____ Zhongguancun _____

4. A. Great scientific achievements are the results of years of failure, years of trying.

B. Years of failure, years of trying have _____ great scientific achievements.

5. A. China has long been a leader in the field of genetic research with the aim of improving agriculture.

B. China has long been a leader in the field of genetic research _____ improving agriculture.

V. Cloze test.

Among the most popular books being written today are those which are usually classified as science fiction. Hundreds of titles are published every year and are 1 by all kinds of people. What's 2, some of the most successful films of recent years have been 3 on science fiction stories. It is often 4 that science fiction is a fairly new development in literature, but its ancestors can be found in 5 written hundreds of years ago. These books often 6 for the presentation of some form of ideal (理想化) 7, a theme which is 8 often found in modern stories. Most of the classics (名著) of science fiction, 9, have been written within the last one hundred years. Books 10 writers, such as Jules Verne and H. G. Wells, to mention just two well-known authors, 11 been translated into many languages. 12 science fiction writers don't write about men from Mars or space adventure stories. They are more 13 in predicting the effect of 14 progress of society and the human mind, or in 15 future worlds which are a reflection (反映) of the world, in 16 we live now. Because of this, their 17 has obvious political undertones (含义). In an age when scientific fact frequently, 18 science fiction, the writers may 19 it difficult to keep 20 of scientific advances.

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. A. cut | B. read | C. said | D. stolen |
| 2. A. more | B. worse | C. better | D. less |
| 3. A. made | B. depended | C. based | D. focused |
| 4. A. turned | B. resulted | C. advised | D. thought |
| 5. A. films | B. notes | C. books | D. libraries |
| 6. A. found | B. cared | C. wished | D. reminded |
| 7. A. society | B. idea | C. future | D. end |
| 8. A. yet | B. still | C. ever | D. already |
| 9. A. besides | B. therefore | C. however | D. moreover |
| 10. A. by | B. on | C. about | D. for |
| 11. A. had | B. have | C. which have | D. which had |
| 12. A. Ancient | B. Former | C. Past | D. Modern |

13. A. interested B. fond C. satisfied D. tired
 14. A. social B. literary C. economic D. technical
 15. A. recognizing B. imagining C. remembering D. changing
 16. A. them B. which C. it D. that
 17. A. result B. mind C. writing D. present
 18. A. passes on to B. gets close to C. catches up with D. breaks away from
 19. A. find B. know C. see D. make
 20. A. records B. out C. ahead D. back

V. Reading comprehension.

The biggest change in the world today is technology. The reason the world is getting smaller is because people can talk to each other more quickly than before with more information.

The computer now has the information of a library of books on all subjects. By sitting at a computer, different software programs allow students the chance to learn about all subjects simply by asking the computer to find the information. The computer becomes the library. Students and parents are now learning what an important tool the computer has become for improving education.

Letters might take a few days even a few weeks to be delivered. Technology has developed a fax machine where a letter can travel anywhere in the world, immediately. This has changed the way people do business. Many computers can receive e-mail. This is like the fax letter. Often, businesses have a fax machine but homes do not. If a computer is in a home, it can receive e-mail messages from anyone in the world. It is like the telephone but it costs much less to receive messages.

The next generation will have computers in most homes and be able to send faxes and e-mail all over the world. In the future, the computer will be as common as the telephone or TV. Technology is changing the way people communicate with each other.

- The world is getting smaller just because _____.
 A. the computer has taken the place of a library
 B. people can communicate with each other much more quickly
 C. people have a shorter talk to each other
 D. people in different places can get together in a short time
- More and more students find the computer _____.
 A. can help them with everything
 B. hasn't become an important tool
 C. can be used for getting more information in a shorter time
 D. can help them go to college
- Which is most emphasized (强调) in the passage to show how important technology is?
 A. Telephone. B. Fax. C. E-mail. D. Computer.
- We can infer from the passage that _____.



- A. the telephone is more common than the computer now
B. letters won't be found in the future
C. e-mail is the cheapest way to receive messages
D. business people had better use fax machine
5. What's the main idea of the passage?
- A. The world is smaller. B. Technology changes the world a lot.
C. The computer will be widely used.
D. People can communicate with each other easily.

B

Would you like an invisibility cloak(隐形衣服) that works just like the one Harry Potter got from his father? Such a cloak may be available in stores with other Harry Potter clothes sooner than you think. Researchers in England and the US have found the materials to build such a cloak, according to the latest edition of Nature magazine.

Nader Engheta, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, has done his own work on invisibility using special materials called metamaterials.

Unlike those found in nature or the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, these materials steer(导引) light, and other forms of electromagnetic(电磁) radiation around an object.

Scientists suggest that these metamaterials could be used to make a cloak. Light and all other forms of electromagnetic radiation would strike it and flow around the sides. The light would simply continue on as if it hadn't bumped against an obstacle(障碍), like a river flowing around a smooth big stone. It would seem to onlookers that they were looking right through the cloak. Everything covered by the cloak would be concealed from view.

"Is it science fiction? Well, it's theory and that already is not science fiction. It's theoretically possible to do all these Harry Potter things," said John Pendry, a physicist at the Imperial College London.

Although such a cloak does not yet exist, early versions that could mask microwaves and other forms of electromagnetic radiation could be as close as 18 months away, said Pendry. He said the study was "an invitation to come and play with these new ideas".

"We will have a cloak after not too long," he added.

It seems that the US military(军方) are as interested in the possibility of an invisible cloak as ordinary boys and girls. The Pentagon(五角大楼) is not just waiting for the result of the research like the rest of us, but actually supported the project from the very beginning. Imagine if all a country's soldiers, planes and weapons became invisible in front of the enemy. The result of a war would be obvious if one side had access to such technology.

6. The passage is focused on _____.
A. a new invention B. an interesting story



- C. a new weapon D. a science fiction
7. The underlined word in the fourth paragraph means "_____".
A. foreseen B. hidden C. overlooked D. disappeared
8. We can infer from the story that the invisibility cloak will _____.
A. only benefit mankind B. only become a dangerous weapon
C. serve different purposes D. soon replace all our ordinary clothes
9. Which of the following is true of the invisibility cloak?
A. It can do all the things in our life.
B. It will come out as close as 18 months away.
C. The light will disappear when it meets an object.
D. It is science fiction and impractical in our life.
10. Why is the Pentagon interested in the invisibility cloak?
A. It is of great military value.
B. It was supported by the Pentagon.
C. It has been possessed by some countries.
D. It has come into use in the army of the US.

VI. Fill in the blanks to complete the dialogue.

M: Hi, Mary, how are you today?

W: I'm fine, Tom. How are you?

M: Pretty 1. w _____. Are you going to John's party tonight?

W: I want to, but I 2. c _____. I've found a job.

M: Oh, you've 3. f _____ a job? I didn't know that.

W: I work at Macdonald's. I'm the assistant manager, but I want to get a 4. d _____ job.

M: My father's company will 5. n _____ some people to work for the summer.

W: What kind of company does he work 6. f _____?

M: It's a construction company.

W: That 7. s _____ like it might be interesting. Don't you know what kind of jobs they have?

M: Well, I don't know for 8. s _____, but he said they need twenty-five or thirty new people. They plan to hire them in June. They'll work until the end of August, or the 9. b _____ of September.

W: I'd better try it.

M: I'll tell my father about it, and then you can call 10. h _____.

W: Thanks a lot.

VII. Writing.

时下,很多学生有手机。为此,某英语报社在你校组织了一场讨论。讨论的主题是:中学生是否有必要有手机。请你根据下列表格提供的信息,给报社写一封信,客观介绍讨论的情况,然后发表你的观点。



	大多数学生同意	大多数老师反对
理由	1. 方便跟家长和同学联系; 2. 便于发短信和拍照; 3. 是一种时尚。	1. 有手机学生易于分散精力; 2. 中学生不能自控,用手机玩游戏、发短信和拍照,浪费时间; 3. 手机有辐射,对健康有害。

注意:1. 信的开头和结尾已给出。

2. 120 个词左右。

Dear editor,

I'm writing to tell you about the discussion we carried out on whether it is necessary for middle school students to have mobile phones.

Yours truly,
Yang Li



Unit 12

Fact and fantasy

Studying aims

1. 本单元以科幻小说为话题, 让学生了解部分科幻小说, 学会如何表达自己相信和疑惑的意见。
2. 掌握构词法的部分前缀含义。
3. 掌握以下表达方式:

I believe...

I doubt...

I can't imagine...

It could be...but...

Listening Part

I. Listen to five dialogues and choose the right answers.

1. What does the woman's answer mean?
A. Sadly. B. Rudely. C. Friendly.
2. Where do you think the dialogue takes place?
A. In the post office. B. In a hotel. C. In a shop.
3. How much will the woman have to pay?
A. \$8. B. \$7. C. \$11.
4. At what time does the post office close?
A. At 4:45. B. At 5:00. C. At 5:15.
5. What are the two speakers talking about?
A. A fine boat. B. Their friend, Tom. C. The weather.

II. Listen to the passage and choose the right answers.

1. When did many people move to the cities?
A. In the 16th century. B. In the 17th century. C. In the 18th century.
2. What did people in the cities like to do on Sundays and holidays?
A. To leave the cities.
B. To leave the cities and go to the countryside.
C. To leave the cities and have a good time in the countryside.
3. When was the first bicycle invented?
A. In 1790. B. In 1861. C. In 1681.
4. Why did people like bicycles?
A. Because they were the only form to send people to other places.



- B. Because they were cheaper than horses.
C. Because they were as expensive as horses.
5. Who could ride bicycles?
A. Men and women. B. Boys and girls. C. All kinds of people.

Written Part

I. Multiple choice.

1. I only know it is a _____ distance away from here, but I don't know _____ the distance exactly is.
A. good, what B. good, how far C. far, what D. far, how far
2. Tom's father sent him to Paris to study law, but _____ he developed his love for the theatre.
A. besides B. moreover C. therefore D. instead
3. Unlike most young women _____ her day, she was able to meet other well-educated people on different occasions.
A. of B. on C. for D. in
4. Studies show that the presence of social support helps people defend themselves _____ illness.
A. against B. over C. with D. off
5. It has been raining every day so far. I hope tomorrow will _____ fine.
A. turn to B. turn up C. turn into D. turn out
6. A car had a head-on _____ with a truck on the highway yesterday, killing 2 and injuring 3.
A. contest B. collision C. conflict D. contrary
7. Mary has always thought of herself as a good dancer and never forgets to _____ others of it.
A. remind B. remember C. know D. introduce
8. For these flowers, _____ is badly needed is plenty of water and sunshine.
A. all B. all that C. all what D. all which
9. When he came to, he found himself _____ to a tree, with his mouth filled with a towel.
A. to tie B. tying C. being tied D. tied
10. The old couple visited Paris again last week, _____ they met for the first time and fell in love.
A. when B. where C. which D. whether
11. I used to be a very delightful girl. I guess no human being could have passed _____ childhood.
A. a happy B. a happier C. the happier D. the happiest
12. We are expected to arrive at the village before dark. I doubt now _____ we can make it by then.



A. whether B. that C. when D. where
13. The movies produced in the 1930s established a solid base _____ a Chinese film industry could grow.

A. when B. that C. on which D. for which
14. He failed to throw light _____ the problem and it made the audience _____.

A. upon, disappointing B. on, disappointed
C. at, puzzled D. upon, annoying

15. I can't imagine _____ in the accident and I am considering _____ his wife to be sure.

A. Tom's dying, to phone B. Tom died, to phone
C. Tom dead, phoning D. Tom's death, phoning

II. Write out the words according to the first letters given.

1. He was kept as a p _____ for twenty years for no good reason.
2. If everyone can control themselves, there will be less c _____ and quarrel.
3. Mr Baker will set off on a v _____ to South Africa in three days.
4. The world must pay much more a _____ to the phenomenon of international terrorism.
5. The film *Harry Potter* is a big success and it's adapted from science f _____.

III. Fill in the blanks with the phrases given.

A) on earth, on the earth, in the earth

1. What do you mean _____ by that?
2. Which do you think is the most attractive city _____?
3. Rooting deep _____, the tree stood still in the strong wind.

B) in future, in the future

1. You must promise that you will not speak to me like that _____.
2. No one now can predict what man will be like _____, say, 500 years away.

IV. Correct the following mistakes.

1. He used for the latest ideas and technical inventions of his day in his books.
2. Jules Verne died in 1905, long before any of his dreams came truly.
3. The ship is also very strong and protect with thick iron plates!
4. All is needed for life on board comes from the ocean.
5. Electricity is used for light, heating, power and defend the ship against attacks.
6. Their guide leads them through a narrow passage deeply into the earth.
7. Walk along its shores they go through forests of mushrooms and plants that lived on the earth millions of years ago.
8. I entered the search for wisdom and dreamt of finding a way to cure of any disease.
9. How to prepare a body for it with all its muscles and organs was still remained a difficult job.
10. It was on a night in November when I looked at the result of my work.



V. Fill in the blanks with proper prepositions or adverbs.

1. All that is needed for life _____ board comes _____ the ocean.
2. Dressed _____ diving suits, Captain Nemo and his guests walk around in this magic world, lighted _____ the lamps of the ship.
3. Two men decide to go _____ this adventure and travel _____ Iceland.
4. Walking _____ the shores of the ocean, they go _____ forests of mushrooms and plants.
5. It was _____ a night _____ November that I looked at the result of my work.
6. _____ their efforts to survive, they find themselves on the surface of the monster itself, which turns _____ to be a submarine.
7. I have not seen your father _____ months. Please remember me _____ him.
8. A thick stick stands _____ the wall _____ the corner.
9. Will you please see _____ it that all the children here are well fed and taken good care _____?
10. I can see a horse fastened _____ a tree next _____ the house.

VI. Cloze test.

I had offered to watch my 3-year-old daughter, so that my wife could go out with a friend. I was getting some work done in my study while she 1 to be having a good time in the other room. No problem, I figured. But then it got a little too 2 and I shouted, "What are you doing?" No response. I 3 my question and heard her say, "Oh...nothing." Nothing? I got up from my desk and ran out 4 the living room, where I saw her running across the hall. I followed and watched her as her little behind made a quick 5 into the bathroom. I had her 6! I told her to turn around. She 7. I pulled out my big Daddy voice, "Young lady, I said turn around!" 8, she turned toward me. In her hand was what was left of my wife's new lipstick. And every square inch of her face was 9 with bright red! As she looked up at me with fearful eyes, I heard 10 voice that had been shouted to me as a child. "How could you...? You should know... How many times have you been 11...? What a bad thing to do..." It was just a matter of my picking out which old 12 I was going to use on her so that she would know what a bad girl she had been. But 13 I could let loose, I looked 14 at the sweater on her. In big 15 it said, "I'M A PERFECT LITTLE ANGEL (天使)!" I looked back up into her tearful eyes and, 16 seeing a bad girl who didn't listen, I saw a little angel full of 17 that I had come dangerously close to, 18. "Sweetheart, let's take a picture so Mommy can see how 19 you look." I took the picture and thanked God that I didn't 20 the chance to prove what a perfect little angel he had given me.

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|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. A. happened | B. liked | C. appeared | D. pretended |
| 2. A. long | B. quiet | C. calm | D. strange |
| 3. A. asked | B. answered | C. raised | D. repeated |
| 4. A. into | B. of | C. from | D. for |

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 5. A. way | B. turn | C. change | D. progress |
| 6. A. followed | B. scolded | C. cornered | D. fooled |
| 7. A. laughed | B. listened | C. agreed | D. refused |
| 8. A. Slowly | B. Eagerly | C. Angrily | D. Unfortunately |
| 9. A. filled | B. marked | C. printed | D. covered |
| 10. A. every | B. such | C. any | D. one |
| 11. A. told | B. beaten | C. frightened | D. forbidden |
| 12. A. reports | B. notice | C. advice | D. words |
| 13. A. as | B. when | C. since | D. before |
| 14. A. up | B. down | C. in | D. on |
| 15. A. signs | B. letters | C. messages | D. figures |
| 16. A. because of | B. instead of | C. in spite of | D. as a result of |
| 17. A. value | B. sadness | C. pities | D. tricks |
| 18. A. preventing | B. getting rid of | C. destroying | D. doing wrong on |
| 19. A. dirty | B. ugly | C. special | D. silly |
| 20. A. have | B. get | C. take | D. miss |

VI. Reading comprehension.

A

It is by no means dead, but for the first time, a new survey has shown that traditional marriage has ended to be the preferred living arrangement in the majority of US households.

The findings indicated that marriage did not figure in nearly 55.8 million American family households, or 50.2 percent.

More than 14 million of them were headed by single women, another five million by single men, while 36.7 million belonged to a category described as "non-family households". By comparison, the number of traditional households with married couples at their core stood at slightly more than 55.2 million, or 49.8 percent of the total. Unmarried couples were attracted toward big cities such as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco, while the farm states in the Great Plains and rural communities of the Midwest and West remained bastions(堡垒) of traditionalism, according to the survey.

The shift, experts said, also raises the question about the future effectiveness of so-called "family value" policy currently played by both Republicans and Democrats.

Douglas Besharov, a sociologist with the American Enterprise Institute, said it is difficult for the traditional family to remain unchanged after three and a half decades of divorce rates reaching 50 percent and five decades out-of-wedlock(婚外) births.

"Change is in the air," Besharov said in a recent interview. "The only question is whether it is a disaster or just an evolution."

He predicted that cohabitation(同居) and temporary relationships between people were likely to dominate America's social landscape for years to come.